

THE STRAUGHN MANSION OR DORCHESTER HOUSE

The Straughn house, erected in 1728 and razed in the 1920's, was located near the corner of Gay and Race Streets. It was constructed by an Englishman by the name of Harrison who brought all of its materials from England. Later owners were Congressman Scott and Dr. Joseph Muse, who added a drugstore to the house. Thomas White converted it to a hotel known as "The Dorchester House". It was subsequently possessed by David Straughn, Esquire. The Straughn house is significant as one of the very early houses in Cambridge that is known to have existed and of which photographs are available.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: The Straugh(Mansion or Dorchester House				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Formerly on Gay and Race Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge				
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Dorchester	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
206 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Cambridge			Maryland	
21613				
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>An old photograph of the Straughn Mansion in Jones <u>History of Dorchester County</u> shows that this was a handsome two and one half story dwelling with a gable roof, dormers, and a gable on the front. Across the front and at least one side of the house was a two story porch supported by rectangular columns, having a ballustrade with diamond pattern around the second story.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

The Straughn house was erected in 1728 and razed in the 1920's. It was constructed by an Englishman by the name of Harrison, who brought all of its materials from England. The house passed from Harrison to Congressman Scott. Next to own the house was Dr. Joseph Muse, who later built the mansion at the corner of Muse and Academy Streets. (The Muse Mansion was eventually used as a female seminary and then as a high school until torn down in 1955.) Dr. Muse added a drugstore to his house on Gay Street. Next to own the home was Thomas White, a local Democratic politician who converted it into a hotel known as "The Dorchester House". It was subsequently possessed by David Straughn, Esq.

Significance:

This site is significant as one of the very early houses in Cambridge that is known to have existed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jones, Elias, The New Revised History of Dorchester County, Cambridge, Tidewater Publishers, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

2/27/76

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature



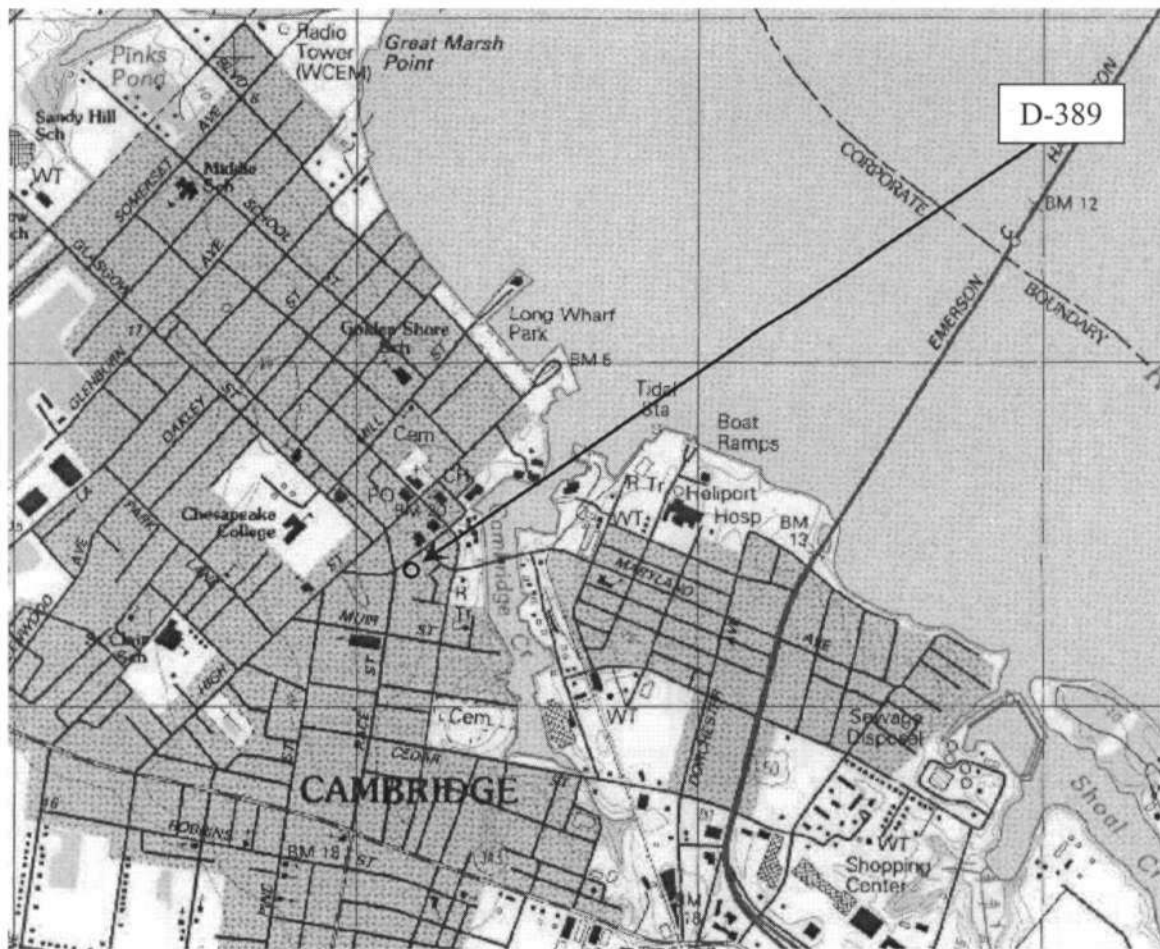
D-389

The Straughn Mansion or Dorchester House *site*
Gay St. and Race St.

Cambridge

Cambridge Quad.

Dorchester Co.



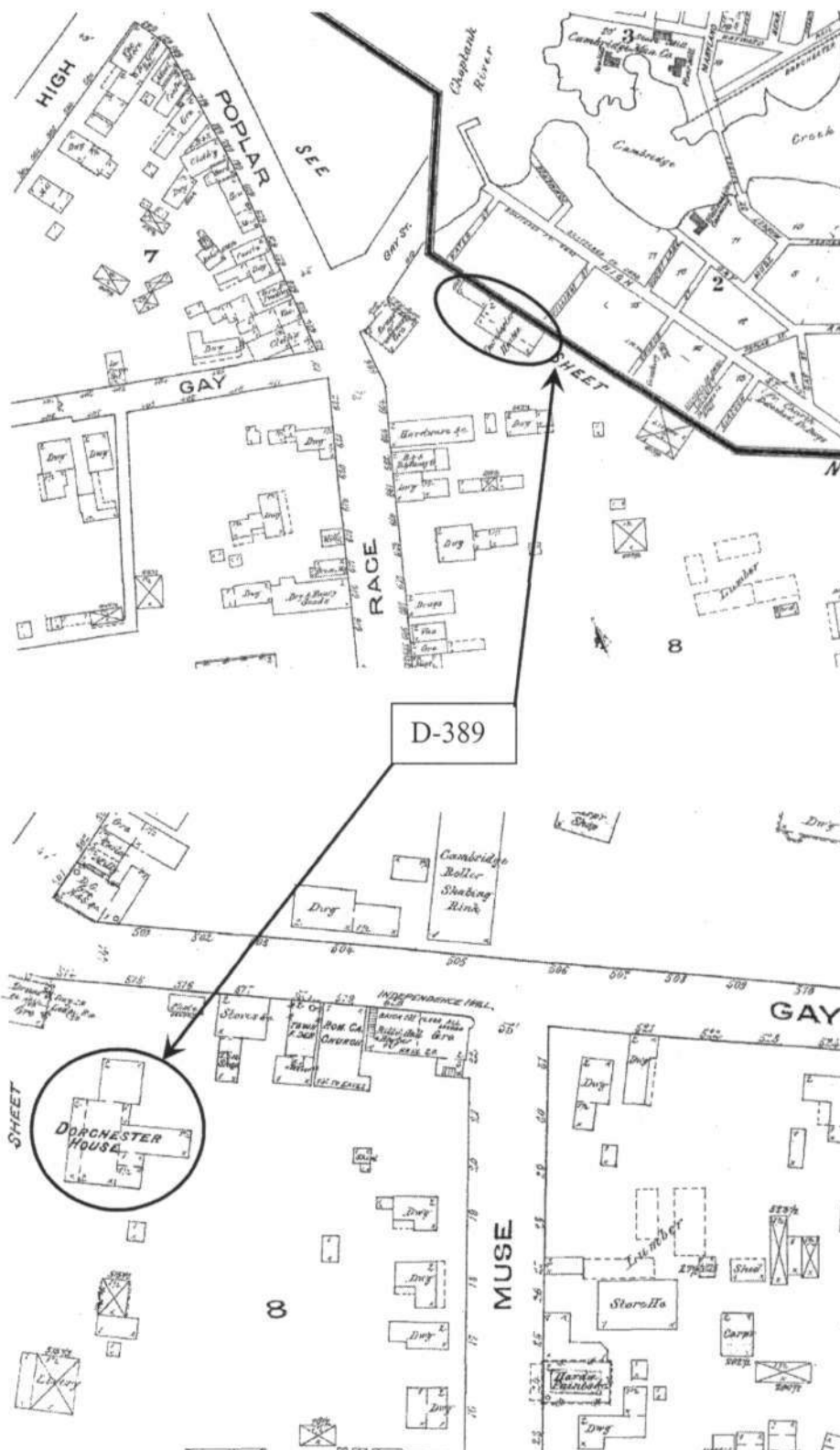
D-389

The Straughn Mansion (Dorchester House), *site*

Gay St. and Race St.

Cambridge

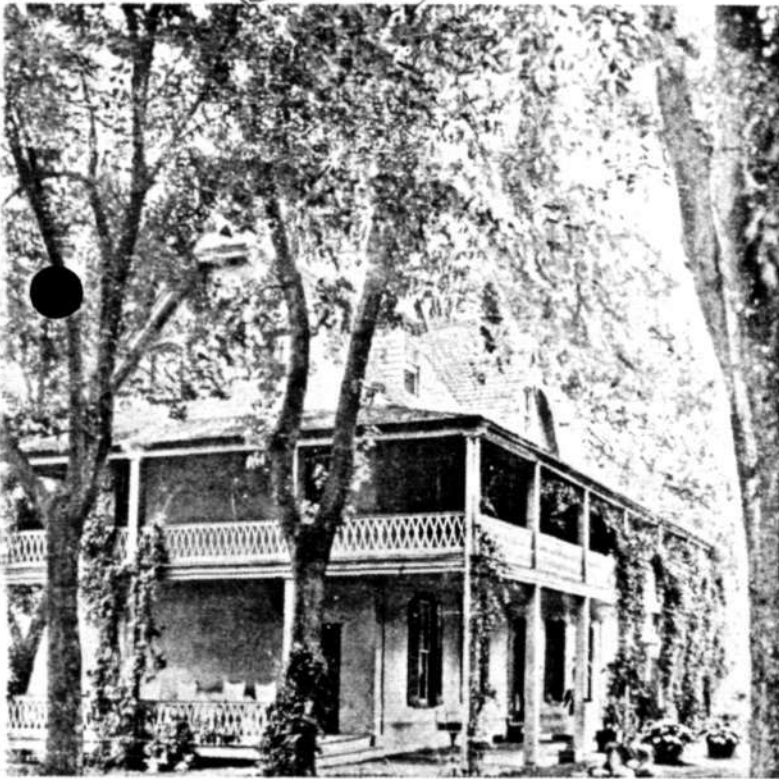
1885 Sanborn Map Sheet 1 and Sheet 2



1896 view shows Race Street from the intersection of Gay and Race streets.



(D-389)



Straughn mansion was erected in 1728. Located at Gay and Race streets, it became a public tavern and a great rendezvous for local Democrats. In the old days, it was not safe for a Whig to ventilate himself in these quarters, especially on a public day, when the Democratic ship was under a full head of steam. From the Cambridge Record, Historical and Industrial Edition, December 1908



The Eastern Shore Trust Company was founded in 1901, and its Cambridge banking house was located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Race and Gay streets. George W. Woolford, Jonathan J. Mills, and D. H. LeCompte were the principal officers of the company. From the Cambridge Record, Historical and Industrial Edition, December 1908